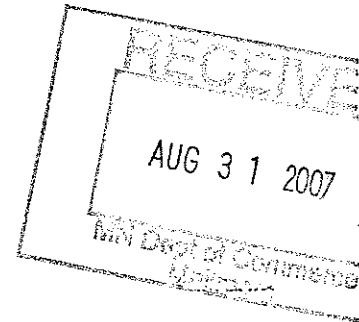




Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

August 29, 2007

Mr. William Cole Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Energy Facility Permitting
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Storm:

This is in response to your request for comments on the revised filing of the pipeline routing permit application for the Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project, PUC Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481. Item 8.1.5 on page E-76 of the Environmental Analysis Supplement indicates that the proposed route does not cross any Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs). While this statement was true at the time the permit application was compiled, it does not reflect the current situation. It now appears that the easternmost 2,000 feet (approximately) of Segment 7, shown in Figure 11-7 on page D-18, will cross a portion of the WHPA for the city of Nashwauk. That WHPA was approved by the Minnesota Department of Health on August 28, 2007.

Special care should be taken to minimize the possibility of leaks or spills of potential groundwater contaminants in the area identified above. The Nashwauk city wells are considered relatively vulnerable to contamination because of the local geologic setting. They draw their water from the Biwabik Iron Formation bedrock aquifer, which is exposed in nearby mine pits and may be found at or near the land surface in the area of the proposed pipeline crossing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink is located below the "Sincerely," text. The signature appears to read "James F. Walsh" and is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James F. Walsh
Source Water Protection Unit
Environmental Health Division
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

JFW:kmc

cc: Larisa Vishkovetsky, MDH, Principal Planner, Metro Office
Beth Kluthe, MDH, Principal Planner, Bemidji District Office